

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 IO-13 /045 W
-----202045Z 103771 /66

P 201159Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1484
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS LISBON 4042

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS/PE/HAUSEMAN
USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN
VIENNA PASS EISELE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PO, U.S., AF
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - MONDALE/YOUNG TRAVELS

1. MONDALE/VORSTER TALKS IN VIENNA: COLUMNIST MANUEL RODRIGUES WROTE IN MAY 20 CENTER-RIGHT "O DIA" THAT VICE PRESIDENT PROBABLY IS TELLING VORSTER THAT "SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL POLICIES NOT ONLY OFFEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS STAND WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER IS READY TO DEFEND AT ALL COSTS, BUT ALSO ARE A BURDEN ON THE WEST AS IT OPPOSES SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN THAT REGION. THIS VIEW REPRESENTS AN ABOUT-FACE IN THE NON-EXPLICIT DOCTRINE WHICH PREVAILED BEFORE NOW. INSTEAD OF CONSIDERING SOUTH AFRICA A BARRIER AGAINST COMMUNIST EXPANSION, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION APPEARS TO HAVE ADOPTED THE VIEWPOINT THAT PRETORIA,S POLICY IN THE END WILL FAVOR THE COMMUNISM IT SEEKS TO COMBAT...VORSTER HAS EVOLVED VERY SLOWLY... BUT HE CANNOT MOVE MUCH FASTER WITHOUT RUNNING THE RISK OF BECOMING ISOLATED.. TO MONDALE'S HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS HE PROBABLY HAS REPLIED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE THESIS OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. UNDER THOSE TERMS, UNDERSTANDING IS IMPOSSIBLE."

2. YOUNG IN MAPUTO: MODERATELY HEAVY MEDIA ATTENTION CONTINUED. SAMPLE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES: MAY 20 LEADING CIRCULATION "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" -- "YOUNG WARNS RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA"; MAY 19 CENTRIST "JORNAL NOVO" -- "MAPUTO CONFERENCE:

AMERICANS (ARE) WITH BLACK MAJORITIES."

3. MONDALE IN LISBON: WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS CARRIED REPORTS ON VISIT FOR FIRST TIME:

(A) LEFTIST "O JORNAL" OF MAY 20 CONCLUDED THAT MONDALE'S TALKS WITH EANES AND SOARES GAVE THIS TONE TO U.S. POLICY RE PORTUGAL: "... WASHINGTON MAINTAINS ITS POLICY OF THE SUMMER OF 1975 WHEN, AS FORMER PRESIDENT FORD SAID, THE UNITED STATES OBTAINED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN OUR COUNTRY..." WRITER SAID U.S. FOREIGN-AFFAIRS SPECIALISTS BELIEVE "THE SOCIALISTS AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY (IN PORTUGAL) WOULD BE FREER TO UNITE WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND MOVE THE COUNTRY INTO AN ORBIT VIEWED WITH LESS FAVOR BY WASHINGTON..." BUT IN POWER "THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE BEST BARRIER AGAINST A RETURN OF COMMUNIST PARTY INFLUENCE."

(B) CENTER-RIGHT "O TEMPO" OF MAY 19 EMPHASIZED MONDALE EXPLANATION ABOUT THERE BEING NO POLITICAL -- BUT ONLY TECHNICAL -- HURDLES TO PASS IN U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL.

(C) CENTER-RIGHT "O PAIS" OF MAY 20 PLAYED UP CONFIRMATION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND REPRINTED EXCERPT OF STATEMENTS MONDALE AND SOARES MADE MAY 16 ABOUT THE AZORES NOT BEING A BILATERAL PROBLEM.
JORDAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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